

# Kansas Green Teams

## Kansas Green Guide – Your Bi-Weekly Guide to Sustainable Living

Pro Sports Go Green

September 14, 2012

Solar panels and recycling bins are becoming as common as hot dog vendors for professional sports teams and their venues. The process of putting the industry's operations on a more sustainable course is important. Not only is the business of big-time sports highly visible in our culture, but it also can use tremendous environmental resources. In addition to the direct environmental benefits, there is also a tremendous educational dividend to these efforts. While only 13 percent of Americans say they follow science, 61 percent identify themselves as sports fans. Below are some highlights of teams' greening efforts with regard to energy, water and waste:

### Energy:

- **Self-sufficiency** - Philadelphia's Lincoln Financial Field, home of the National Football League's Eagles, is becoming the first stadium in the US capable of generating 100 percent of its energy on-site through a mix of solar panels, a generator that runs on natural gas and biodiesel and soon, 14 wind turbines.
- **Solar** – Staples Center in Los Angeles has a 1,727-panel solar array covering 25,000 square feet of the arena's roof. The 345.6-kilowatt system supplies 5 to 20 percent of the building's energy use (depending on load) and produces 525,000 kilowatt-hours annually.
- **Wind** – In 2012, Cleveland's Progressive Field became the first pro sports facility to install a wind turbine, which generates more than 40,000 kilowatt hours per year.

### Water:

- **Irrigation** – San Francisco's AT&T Park has an irrigation "clock" that uses up-to-the-minute local data to establish zone watering times, saving 33-to-50 percent of water for irrigation. Changes in the composition of the infield surface have further reduced field watering by 33 percent.
- **Efficiency** – The Minnesota Twins' Target Field installed dual flush toilets and aerated faucets, saving approximately 4.2 million gallons of water annually.
- **Water Restoration Credits** – For the 2011 Stanley Cup Finals and 2011 Winter Classic, the NHL purchased over 4.5 million gallons in Water Restoration Credits from Bonneville Environmental Foundation to balance the amount of water used during the events. In early 2012, NHL Green introduced Gallons for Goals, committing to restore 1,000 gallons of water to a critically dewatered river in the Northwest for every goal scored during the regular season.

### Waste:

- **Recycling** – The Cleveland Indians have cut their trash in half by implementing an enhanced recycling program. This has also reduced the number of trash pick-ups by 64 percent, saving \$50,000 annually.
- **Composting** – The St. Louis Cardinals' 4 A Greener Game program, launched in 2008, is credited with recycling more than 1,836 tons of solid waste, more than 575 tons of yard waste, and more than 110 tons of composted organic material.
- **Supply chain impact** - The Montreal Canadiens implemented a purchasing policy requiring that the organization buy only environmentally-friendly cleaning products. Eighty percent of purchases now include products that are locally made and/or composed of reused or recycled content.



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